

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 IO-14 /087 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P:BARUSSELL:MR
APPROVED BY AF/P:BARUSSELL
AF/S:DKPETTERSON

-----053445 231102Z /23

R 222101Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS STATE 145179

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA'S REMARKS

1. REUTERS REPORTS THE FOLLOWING ON FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA'S
REMARKS JUNE 21:

2. FOLLOWING MEETING WITH SECRETARY:

SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER ROELOF "PIK" BOTHA WARNED
TODAY THAT ANY AMERICAN INSISTENCE ON ONE-MAN, ONE-VOTE
WOULD LEAD TO A RAPID DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN
THE TWO COUNTRIES.

EMERGING FROM A 90-MINUTE MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF STATE
CYRUS VANCE, MR. BOTHA SAID RELATIONS "IN A CERTAIN SENSE"
ALREADY HAD DETERIORATED BECAUSE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION
HAD APPLIED "PRESSURE ON US IN REGARD TO CERTAIN MATTERS
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WE CANNOT NEGOTIATE AT ALL."

DESCRIBING THE TONE OF HIS MEETING AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT,
MR. BOTHA TOLD REPORTERS: "IT IS ALWAYS GOOD FOR COUNTRIES
TO BE ABSOLUTELY FRANK WITH ONE ANOTHER, EVEN WHEN THEY
DISAGREE."

MR. BOTHA, WHO IS IN THE UNITED STATES ON A PRIVATE VISIT, ASKED TO MEET MR. VANCE AND ALSO PLANS TO SEE A NUMBER OF U.S. SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES.

THE FORMER AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON AND THE UNITED NATIONS FLASHED ANGER AS HE ANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS TALKS WITH MR. VANCE ON SOUTH AFRICAN INTERNAL QUESTIONS.

ASKED WHETHER THE UNITED NATIONS CONSIDERED SOUTH AFRICAN ADOPTION OF ONE-MAN ONE-VOTE OR MAJORITY RULE AS A PRE-CONDITION FOR IMPROVING RELATIONS, HE SAID: "THAT IS A VERY COMPLICATED ISSUE...WE DID DISCUSS IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THIS, BUT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE ON THIS PARTICULAR OCCASION TO BRING CLARITY AS FAR AS THIS MATTER IS CONCERNED."

PRESSED ON THE ISSUE OF ONE-MAN ONE-VOTE, HE SAID: WE SIMPLY CANNOT ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF ONE-MAN ONE-VOTE FOR SOUTH AFRICA FOR THE SIMPLE REASON THAT IF YOU ACCEPT A VOTE ON A GLOBAL BASIS, YOU WOULD BE OUTVOTED. IF THAT IS INSISTED UPON, THEN I'M AFRAID THERE WILL BE A RAPID WORSENSING OF RELATIONS."

ASKED IF MR. VANCE PUSHED HIM ON THIS POINT, HE SAID: "I DON'T WANT TO COMMENT ON IT BECAUSE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSIONS."

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THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT PUBLICLY CALLED FOR SOUTH AFRICAN MOVE TO MAJORITY RULE, ALTHOUGH VICE PRESIDENT WALTER MONDALE AT A PRESS CONFERENCE LAST MONTH INDICATED THAT THIS WAS THE AIM OF U.S. POLICY.

MR. BOTHA SAID THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S PRESSURE ON HIS COUNTRY HAD CREATED A PROBLEM. "ALL I CAN DO IS BE FRANK AND OPEN WITH YOUR ADMINISTRATION AND SAY THIS WE CAN DO BUT THAT WE CAN'T."

MR. BOTHA SAID THEY HAD ALSO DISCUSSED RHODESIA AND THE QUESTION OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA OR NAMIBIA, THE FORMER GERMAN COLONY UNDER SOUTH AFRICAN ADMINISTRATION. HE SAID SOUTH AFRICA HAD MADE EVERY POSSIBLE CONCESSION ON NAMIBIA. THERE IS NOTHING SOUTH AFRICA CAN DO NOW TO FURTHER THE DISCUSSION."

HE SAID THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES DISCUSSING THE QUESTION WITH HIS GOVERNMENT WERE NOT CONSIDERING FURTHER MOVES.

ON RHODESIA, HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTIVE PROGRESS

TOWARD A PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER TO MAJORITY RULE. HE

SAID HE SAW PREMIER IAN SMITH LAST WEEK AND ADDED: "I'M PREPARED TO SAY HE'S NOT THE PROBLEM." HE SAID THE PROBLEM WAS DISAGREEMENT AMONG BLACK NATIONALIST LEADERS ON HOW TO PROCEED TO MAJORITY RULE.

3. IN AN ADDRESS TO AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN IN NEW YORK:

SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER PIK BOTH HAS TOLD AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN THAT UNITED STATES POLICY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WAS MAKING PEACEFUL CHANGE "INFINITELY MORE DIFFICULT" TO ACHIEVE.

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SOUTH AFRICANS COULD ACCEPT CRITICISM AND EVEN CONSIDER AMERICAN SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH SITUATIONS INVOLVING POTENTIAL RACIAL FRICTION, HE SAID.

"BUT THERE IS ONE THING WE CANNOT ACCEPT FROM WASHINGTON OR ANY OTHER QUARTER, AND I MUST BE EMPHATIC ABOUT IT: WE ARE NOT GOING TO NEGOTIATE OUR OWN SUICIDE," "HE TOLD A PRIVATE SEMINAR IN SUBURBAN RYE, NEW YORK, LAST NIGHT ON THE TOPIC: "WHY INVEST IN SOUTH AFRICA."

IN HIS ADDRESS, MADE AVAILABLE TODAY, MR. BOTHA TOLD AN AUDIENCE OF MORE THAN 300 THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD RECEIVED A MANDATE FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO FOLLOW A POLICY WHICH WOULD "LEAD TO THE EXTINCTION OF OUR NATION AS A NATION."

"IT IS CLAIMED FOR U.S. POLICY BY ITS EXPONENTS THAT IT IS INTENDED TO AVERT A RACIAL CONFLICT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

"IN PRACTICE, INSTEAD OF BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER, THIS POLICY, HOWEVER WELL INTENTIONED, IS PRODUCING A FAR GREATER DEGREE OF POLARIZATION AND THUS RENDERING INFINITELY MORE DIFFICULT THE PROCESS OF ACHIEVING A MODUS VIVENDI BASED ON EVOLUTION BY PEACEFUL CHANGE."

HE SAID PRESS REPORTS OF RECENT U.S. PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA HAD ENCOURAGED "RADICAL MILITANTS" "IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

THIS RAISED THE DANGER THAT WHAT WAS SEEN TO BE AMERICAN POLICY "COULD IN CIRCUMSTANCES THAT ARE CONCEIVABLE COST THE LIVES OF MANY THOUSANDS OF NON-AMERICANS, BLACK AND UNCLASSIFIED

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WHITE ALIKE."

THE FOREIGN MINISTER, UNTIL RECENTLY AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON AND THE UNITED NATIONS, SAID THE U.S. GOVERN-

MENT WAS NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT FOR ITSELF ANY OF THE AFRICAN SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT BUT URGED SOUTH AFRICA TO ACCEPT A FORMULA WHICH WOULD INEVITABLY LEAD TO AUTHORITARIAN RULE.

"IT IS OUR RIGHT TO BE GOVERNED ACCORDING TO OUR SYSTEM AS IT IS THE RIGHT OF AMERICANS TO BE GOVERNED BY THE AMERICAN SYSTEM. THOSE WHO DENY US THIS BASIC RIGHT ARE IN EFFECT THE RACISTS -- NOT US WHO MERELY WISH TO PRESERVE THAT WHICH IS JUSTLY OURS," HE SAID.

MR. BOTHA, NOW IN WASHINGTON FOR TALKS WITH SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE AND OTHER U.S. OFFICIALS, SAID SOUTH AFRICANS WERE NOT RACISTS AND WERE MOVING AWAY FROM OBSOLETE AND HARMFUL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION BASED ON COLOR ALONE.

WHILE CRITICS SCOFFED AT THESE CHANGES, THEY WERE SIGNIFICANT AND WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS OUGHT TO BE COMMENDED FOR THE WAY THEY ACCEPTED THEM, HE ADDED.

IN HIS ADDRESS, HE ALSO CHARGED THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS ATTEMPTING TO "BLOCK OFF THE OCEANS OF THE WORLD TO THE FREE WORLD, TO CLOSE THE GATE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST SEA PASSAGE, THE ONE AROUND THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE."

"THE UNITED STATES IS ACTUALLY THE MAIN TARGET, NOT US."
HE SAID.

"WE WILL BE READY, AND WE'LL BE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH SOVIET AGGRESSION EVEN IF WE HAVE TO DO SO ALONE. WE INTEND TO
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STAY IN AFRICA FOR AS LONG AS AMERICANS INTEND TO STAY IN AMERICA," THE FOREIGN MINISTER DECLARED. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 367d6078-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2068371
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA'S REMARKS
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, SF, US, (BOTHA, PIK)
To: CAPE TOWN PRETORIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/367d6078-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009